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An inaugural essay  
on

*Corypelas facialis*  
Fry.

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An important step

in the development of  
the human mind

Wm. H. Hall

of  
Religious and Moral

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## On Erysipelas of the face.

Closely allied to the mucous membranes, in point of texture and function, is the skin; and the inflammation of this structure is attended with some interesting peculiarities. Genuine inflammation of the skin has peculiar characters, which have acquired for it, the name of erysipelatis inflammation. It is characterized, by pruritus, heat, tension, and redness: but instead of a tendency to circumscribe itself, its disposition is to spread; instead of abscess, it goes on to the formation of vesicle. It may occur on any part of the skin, but the face is the most common seat of it, which is attributable to the peculiar organization of the skin of this region, and the disposition in the facial capillaries to receive red blood; as we observe in the various emotions of the mind, manifested in the phenomena of blushing, and the suffusion from guilt. A great diversity of opinion has prevailed among writers, respecting the nature and seat of this disease; if my view on this subject be correct, it is of gastric origin. The primary seat, is the mucous tissue of the stomach and intestinal canal; owing to the very close sympathy existing that tissue, and

owing to the very low temperature existing that there are  
in the human system of the stomach and intestines, except  
on this subject is correct, it is of positive origin. The primary seat  
residing the nature and seat of the disease, of the origin  
of great severity of operation has followed among various  
formations of blood and the sufficient from death  
in the various conditions of the mind, manifested in the  
the facial capillaries to receive and bleed, as we observe in  
action of the skin of the region, and the disposition con-  
sistent of it, which is attributable to the peculiar disposition  
in any part of the skin, but the face is the most common  
subject of the formation of vessels. It may occur  
occasionally itself, its disposition is to spread, instead  
that, however, and perhaps, but instead of a tendency to  
proliferate capillaries. It is characterized, by forming  
character, which have acquired for it, the name of capil-  
larities. genuine capillaries of the skin has peculiar  
of this structure is attended with some interesting peculiar-  
ities and function, in the skin, and the inflammation  
clearly allied to the human system, as found in  
is the properties of the face.



the dermoid, the irritation is extended to the latter, and we have an effluviem. Symptomatology, Erysipelas of the face, is ushered in with coldness, (sometimes amounting to rigors) and other symptoms of pyrexia; The pulse generally frequent, full and hard. The mental operations are somewhat affected, and drowsiness, in some cases delirium, accompany the hot stage. The skin during the progress of these symptoms is hot, and dry, and these symptoms having continued for two or three days, redness and swelling appear on some part of the face. The colour of the affected part, is sometimes mingled with a peculiar yellowish tint, which readily disappears on pressure, immediately returning on pressure being removed. There is a distressing sense of heat, and tingling in the inflamed surface. The swelling and inflammation, extends to the scalp, affecting it with great soreness. The eyes are sometimes closed from the adjacent swelling. As the swelling and inflammation spread, they become less apparent, at the point, pri-

the disease, the circulation is extended to the latter, and  
we have an effluvia. Syphilis, however, is  
of the face, is marked by a redness, and a  
which is more or less extensive of the face, the  
spots generally frequent, full and hard. The  
eruptions are somewhat affected, and generally in  
some cases extending beyond the face, the skin  
during the progress of these eruptions is hot and dry,  
and these eruptions being confined to the face is the  
days, redness and swelling appear in some part of  
the face. The colour of the affected part is sometimes  
tinged with a greenish yellow, but which soon  
it disappears in person, immediately returning to  
the face being removed. There is a redness, and  
and tingling on the surface of the face. The swelling and  
inflammation, returns to the scalp affecting it with  
not except. The face sometimes extends from the side  
and swelling. At the swelling and inflammation  
spontaneous, that become less apparent at the part, per-

- mainly affected. Erysipelas seldom penetrates beneath the skin; but in some severe cases, it extends to the cellular tissue, then, we have phlegmon or edema, according as the inflammation is circumscribed, or diffused.

Duratio Mali. It is liable to considerable variation; In young persons it commonly terminates in 6 or 8 days, but in those more advanced in years, it is often protracted to the twelfth, or fifteenth day, even later. The termination is brought about in several different manners; the mildest, is that which consists in a gradual disappearance of the symptoms, with desquamation of the cuticle; But the most common is, after a certain time, (about the fourth or fifth day) vesicles arise of different sizes, containing a thin yellowish or transparent serum, which burst, and leave the skin, in that part, of a livid colour. When it proves fatal, the patient generally dies apoplectic on the seventh or ninth day, in more violent attacks scarcely

thoroughly affected. Copious redness extends through  
the skin, but in some cases it extends to the  
interior, thus we have redness of the  
as the inflammation is continued, it is  
Doubtless that the cause is  
the same, the great quantity of  
secreted in the lungs, but in these cases the  
it is proved, it is often continued to the  
in the lungs, the inflammation is  
thought that the secreted matter, the  
inflammation is that which causes a  
appearance of the respiratory with  
of the catarrh, that the secreted matter is  
certain time, but the first is  
a more of secreted matter, a thin  
which is transparent serum, which has  
which is that part of a bird's  
fat, the patient generally dies  
small or middle size, in more recent cases

as the third. Diagnosis. It is sufficiently obvious from the preceding symptoms; no one who has ever seen a person labouring under this disease, or heard it well delineated, could mistake it. So very distinct and well-marked are its characteristic signs.

Prognosis. It is the more dangerous in proportion as central symptoms are manifested; The chance of recovery is diminished, the greater the advancement in years, (and in very young children, among the latter the complaint is exceedingly prone to a fatal termination; and entire suppression of urine is very generally a fatal symptom—

Etiology—Contagious. The discussions relative to the contagiousness of Erysipelas, have been as keen as on every other occasion in which the doctrine of contagion is involved. When it wears a well-marked typhoid character, and occurs in confined establishments, as hospitals; it may extend by contagion, particularly, where

as the third. Progress is a sufficient  
fine the preceding signification, in the last  
then a person following under the same, is  
it well defined, and makes up the new  
and well marked on its characteristic signs.  
Progress, it is the most common in  
as other signification on a small scale, the  
of account is distinguished, the first, the  
ment as a sign, and in every other  
the latter the complaint is a sign of  
fatal termination, and other signs of  
a very general fatal sign.  
Crisis - During the disease, the  
the termination of the disease, there  
then as in every other disease in which the  
termination of the disease is marked. When it  
is a well marked typical character, and  
no confirmed establishment in the body, it  
they return of the disease, particularly when

there is a defective or an ill-regulated system of Ventilation. But as the disease, usually occurs in this country, it wears a decided inflammatory aspect, and so far from proceeding from contagion, it can rarely if ever be traced to that cause. It often appears to be an attendant on a gouty diathesis; Our eloquent and very distinguished, Professor on the Practice of Medicine, has known it to succeed, and alternate with Goutagra. It occurs among the same class of persons, in which, gout is commonly found; (viz) Those who indulge in excessive luxury, debauchery and intemperance. It is commonly attributed to cold applied when the body is overheated; Insolation; a violent paroxysm of grief has been known to produce it. In many instances no exciting cause of any kind can be traced. There is in some persons a

there is a deficiency in the vegetable system  
of ventilation. But as the necessity is usually  
shown in the country, it seems a desirable in-  
fluencing agent, and as far from  
being from ventilation, it can easily be  
be traced to that cause. It often appears  
to be an attendant on a good husband, but  
dependent and very distinct, I suppose in the  
nature of the disease, has known it to occur  
some alternate with fevers. It seems many  
the same class of fevers, in which, but  
a secondary fever, (not) then when it  
is in extreme form, delirium and in-  
coherence. It is commonly attributed to  
the exposure when the body is weakened,  
but also, a violent exposure of great  
heat known to produce it, for many winter  
cases existing, some of our kind cases  
be traced. There is in some persons a



a strong disposition to this kind of inflammation; and in them it is brought on by very trifling causes, as indigestible or rancid foods. This disposition appears, to be hereditary, in some cases; and it may possibly depend on some peculiar organization of the skin.

The tendency in Erysipelas, to metastasis is very great, and is, a circumstance in the history of the disease of the utmost importance; as it is the great source of danger in idiopathic erysipelas, and regulates, in no inconsiderable degree, the treatment. Pneumonic affections have been observed in some cases; But the brain is the Organ, which is most liable to suffer—

Treatment— The treatment of Erysipelas has proved a fertile theme of controversy. It has been supposed, that the

is then depending to this kind of infection, and in them it is brought on by very trifling causes, as undigestible articles of food. The infection appears to be hereditary, in some cases, and it may possibly depend on some peculiar relation of the skin.

The tendency in Erysipelas, to become suppurative, and to a certain degree in the history of the disease of the utmost importance; as it is the great source of danger in suppurative erysipelas, and no other, in an unsuppurated degree, the treatment demands a different course than it does in some cases; but the same is the Erysipelas, which is most liable to suppurate. The treatment of

Erysipelas has proved a fatal thing of consequence. It has been supposed, that the

common principles, applicable to other inflammatory diseases are inapplicable here; But the supporters of this opinion do not seem to have taken into consideration the variety of causes from which erysipelas originates, and the almost infinitely varied circumstances of situation, age, and constitution, under which it appears. Keeping these in view, it does not appear, that any important difference of principle is to be established between the treatment of erysipelatos, and other inflammatory affections. Some practitioners, instead, of pursuing a steady, bold, and determined antiphlogistic plan of treatment, which, the very obvious pathology of the disease, is calculated to excite, and which is amply corroborated by experience, have been induced, to adopt a diametrically <sup>opposite</sup> course, by absurd and unfounded fears, of

the most important principle applicable to the human  
mind is that we are susceptible of two kinds of  
the operations of the mind, as we are  
to have taken into consideration the variety of  
cases from which we are to draw our  
the almost infinitely varied circumstances  
of situation, age, and constitution, under  
which it operates. Observing these we know  
it does not appear that any constant  
difference of principle is to be established  
between the treatment of hysterical and  
other constitutional affections. Of course  
preliminary method, if forming a ready, bold  
and determined antipathetic plan of treat-  
ment, which the very nature of the  
the disease is calculated to excite, and which  
is carefully counteracted by exposure, have  
been advised to adopt a diametrically opposite  
course, by almost and confirmed fears, of

debility; consequently, rejecting venesection, cups,  
Leeches, and Purgatives, our chief dependencies  
in inflammations of internal mucous sur-  
faces; Substituting, in their stead, the inefficient  
and even deliterious, tonic and stimulating plan  
of treatment.

"Venesection," says D. Good,  
"was formerly recommended, and has been  
so of late by a few writers, but upon mis-  
taken principles. I can conceive very few  
cases in which it has a chance of being re-  
miable; and the application of leeches always  
exasperates the efflorescence. We should first  
cool the body by gentle laxatives, and in-  
stantly have recourse to a tonic plan. The  
bark given largely has rarely failed of  
success."

The above observations  
of D. Good, are in direct opposition to the  
pathological views, and experiences, of the  
most enlightened portion of the profession,



in this Country, on the subject. Although, cases may occur in aged persons, and in debilitated habits, in hospitals and other confined situations, wherein depletion requires to be administered with caution, perhaps to be altogether inadmissible; but instances are exceedingly rare, where a decided tonic or stimulating plan of treatment can ever be advisable or proper.

The plan of treating this disease, by the most distinguished practitioners of the United States; and which is far the most rational (based on correct pathological views of the disease, and on experience) is the following.

In the commencement of an attack, very prompt and particular attention must be paid to the thorough evacuation of the Alimentary Canal; An emetic of antimony proves very beneficial in arresting the farther progress of the disease, when

in this country in the subject. Although many  
years have elapsed since the first publication  
of the report, and other countries have  
since, in various degrees, advanced to a  
state of civilization, perhaps it is altogether  
impossible, but certainly not impossible, to  
draw a direct line in a straight line of  
treatment, can now be admitted as proper.

The system of treating the disease  
by the most distinguished practitioners of the  
United States, and which is for the most part  
at least in correct pathological views of the  
disease, and in reference to the following  
the treatment.

of an attack, very prompt and particular at-  
tention must be paid to the therapy even  
before of the eliminating cause, the nature  
of the disease, and the progress of the disease, and  
the further progress of the disease, when



it fails in this, it generally mitigates all the symptoms - The evacuation of the stomach must be quickly followed by that of the bowels; Calomel, worked off by calomel Magnesia alone, or with Salt Epsom, is to be preferred; This, with exciting the surface moderately, by mild aëzophorics, constitute the necessary treatment in the forming stage. After the disease is firmly established, a more extensive plan of treatment becomes necessary; Here if the pulse be full and active, attended with Coma and Delirium, venesection must be enforced to a considerable extent, and repeated as often as necessary for the reduction of the symptoms demanding its use; Concomitant with this measure, we should resort to vomiting with Ipecac and Emetic Tartar, (Emetics are the very best remedies in Coma from erysipelas, according to Professor Chapman.) Copious purging, first

it fails in this, it generally misrepresents all the  
suppositions - the execution of the steam  
be quickly followed by that of the double, and  
worked off by column, the steam, with a  
blast of steam, is to be perfect, the result is  
that the surface is not only, but is  
perfect, to make the necessary treatment  
in the finishing stage. After the steam is  
quickly established, a more extensive plan of  
treatment becomes necessary, that of the  
steam is full and active, attended with steam  
and pressure, treatment must be continued  
to a considerable extent and repeated as often as  
necessary for the reduction of the supposition  
demanding it, and, consistent with this  
aim, we should not be hesitating with steam  
and better action, but in the way of  
remedies in cases from impurities, according to  
the (Chapman) (Cotton) (Cotton) (Cotton)

with Calomel, then the milder cathartics.  
The force of the Circulation being thus reduced, the alimentary canal sufficiently evacuated, (which is a "sine qua non," to an easy cure) and the Coma and Delirium still continuing; We must have recourse to cups, Leeches, to the temples, forehead, and Occiput, to be repeated as often as circumstances may require. But when the above symptoms still continue, or decline too slowly, the head must be shaved, and covered with a blister; Under these circumstances, great relief has been known <sup>(to follow)</sup> a spontaneous flow of blood from the nostrils; which, induced practitioners to imitate nature, by the application of 20 or 30 leeches to the nostrils, and not without beneficial effects. When the powers of life are manifestly ebbing from protracted suffering; then, and not till then, is the exhibition of stimulants appropriate.

with regard to the matter of the  
the force of the Constitution being thus  
and the necessary consequences sufficiently  
this (which is a "true question" as an easy  
one) and the Court and Parliament will in  
consequence be much more inclined to  
submit to the transfer of such and such  
to be separated as often as circumstances  
may require. But when the other  
will continue to submit to the transfer  
must be shared, and cannot with a better  
these three circumstances, great relief has been  
known, a spontaneous flow of blood from the  
into which, without intention to interfere  
tion, by the application of 250000000  
the matter, and not without beneficial effects.  
When the power of life are manifestly  
from political suffering, thus, and not till the  
is the subject of the Constitution.

The external, are the rubefacients, Sinapisms and blisters, The internal are Volatile Alkali, Opium, Camphor, wine, bark & cetera. In the progress of the disease, the cutaneous affection, is sometimes so exceedingly troublesome, as to demand particular attention. Different external applications have been proposed, such as cold lotions, warm spirituous fomentations, and dry powders, their influence on the disease does not appear to be very great, therefore, that one should be selected which best relieves the heat, and uneasy sensations which the patient experiences. Having suffered exceedingly from the disease myself, and used the several applications recommended, for the relief of the uneasy sensations above mentioned, <sup>(ad)</sup> I am inclined to believe, that I experienced more benefit, from equal parts of water, and solution of acetate of ammonia, than any <sup>(other)</sup> remedy. A watery solution of Opium - Milk and water - Lead water and Laudanum -



Bran tea - Dry flour - have all, had their advocates,  
and are doubtless serviceable in certain cases - The  
Mercurial Ointment, has long been warmly recom-  
mended in this disease; when applied to the face,  
it has been said by some, to excite Salivation -

